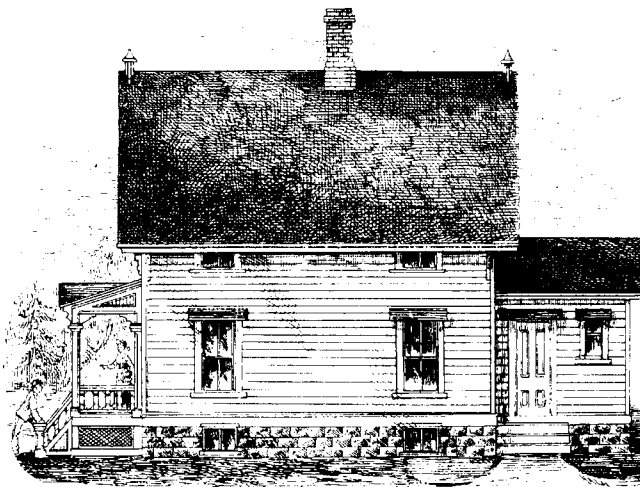


# Preserving Forest Grove

Newsletter of the Historic Landmarks Board



Fall 2000

## Seeing the Possibilities, House Tour 2000

*See Houses that are under various stages of renovation/restoration*

This year's house tour is themed: we're calling it "Seeing the Possibilities" and it's all about houses under renovation or nearly renovated. That means we have some houses that are just starting and have rooms stripped to the studs and we have some houses that are just about done. Many of the owners will be on hand to answer questions or will have photos out of before and after pictures.

Here are the details:

Saturday, September 16th

From 2 pm to 6 pm

Costs \$3.50 if you are a member of Friends of Historic Forest Grove, and \$7 if you are not a member of Friends of Historic Forest Grove.

Tickets can be purchased downtown from 10 am until 4:30 pm; Look for signs when you're at the sidewalk chalk art event.

Here are a few notes on some of the houses that we're featuring:

The Miller house is owned by Dale and Audrey Mitcheltree, and they renovated the house to be a Bed and Breakfast. If you're like me you've been waiting years to get into this house and since Dale and Audrey are 99% finished with their 10-year renovation, they're opening their house for us all to see. This house is two-and-a-half stories and is considered a bungalow. It was built in 1909 and has been associated with several prominent people from Forest Grove's past. F.J.

Miller had the house built in 1909; he was the owner of the Fern Hill Farm where he grew bohemian hops. Miller also opened the first gas station in Forest Grove. Then the Millers sold the house to Charles Rusco who was an executive with the Carnation Milk Co. Later, Vernon Burlingham owned the house.

The Barnes House is owned by Don and Carol O'nion. Don and Carol recently purchased this house and are renovating it to be their retirement home and Don is doing all of the work himself. He's just started so you can see several rooms stripped to the studs and envision what will happen to this beautiful house. It is believed that this house was a Sears and Roebuck house from the late 1890s or early 1900s. The Barnes house is considered Queen Anne; make special note of the fabulous old oak tree in the front yard.

The Templeton house is owned by Toby Nason. It is a two-and-a-half story craftsman bungalow that was built in the early 1900s. John Templeton is the most well-known resident of the house's past. Templeton was a vice president and founder of the First National Bank of Forest Grove; he was also instrumental in creating the Forest Grove electric trolley (Forest Grove Transportation Company).

Please join us this year to see the many homes undergoing restoration in the original Clarke neighborhood.

## Founders' Day 2000 September 17

by Kim Fitzgerald

This year Forest Grove will be celebrating 151 years of community life. Founders' Day 2000 will be celebrated in the third week of September this year. This is an opportunity for Forest Grove residents to remember their roots by taking part in activities sponsored by Pacific University and the Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce. In years past people participated in many hands-on educational activities designed to teach participants about the lifestyles of those from the pioneer era. For example, children enjoyed making corn husk dolls. There has also been a phenomenal scarecrow display, with homemade scarecrows designed by families of Forest Grove. Other activities have included a slide show featuring pictures of historical Forest Grove and demonstrating the ways that the University and the community have been interrelated over the years. The highlight of Founders' Day has always been a Corn Roast sponsored by the Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce. This is a wonderful meal with delicious corn, prepared in a unique way which allows members of the community to gather together to celebrate their roots and look forward to the future. For more information about Founders' Day 2000 please contact Pacific University at 359-2211.

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## Downtown Revitalization Underway

by Scott Rogers

The process of revitalization has begun. New owners. Fresh paint. Downtown Forest Grove is changing. We are saving one of our greatest assets – a historical downtown, which still looks much the same as it did 75 years ago.

Having attended Linfield College, my wife and I were spoiled with historic downtown McMinnville. Third Street is alive with activity – coffee shops, book stores, restaurants. One is lured not only by the quaintness of the area, but by the diversity of shops in the district. Businesses are aimed at the full time residents, as well as the student population and the tourists passing through to either the beach or wine tasting. I envision a revitalized Forest Grove downtown similar to this. We have the core businesses and customer base – with Pacific University two blocks away, an ever growing population of year round residents, and traffic passing through town. The recent progress that has been made is a positive sign that downtown Forest Grove is on its way to a promising, thriving future.

During the past two months, the Historic Landmarks Board has been involved with the funding for two separate renovation grants: one for the Holroyd Building, currently housing an antique store, and another for the Ingles and Porter Building, which is in the process of being completely renovated and restored. In addition, both the building on the northeast corner of Pacific and Main and the Holbrook Lodge have been nicely painted. The residential area south of 19th Avenue between Elm Street and B Street is moving towards National Historic District Nomination. All of these signs point towards continued renovation and growth. If Forest Grove can maintain that growth, without losing the charm that our downtown area possesses, my personal vision for the downtown will have been actualized. I hope that you all are as excited as I am to see what lies ahead for Forest Grove.

# Keeping the Forest in Forest Grove

by Kim Montoya

The wonderful trees in our town are a heritage from our neighbors and families from the past, from John Porter's Landmark Sequoias, to present day Tom Elper's commemorative trees from E & F Nursery on SW Hiatt Rd. The trees make us feel peaceful and give us a sense of heritage and they don't even have to be in our own yard.

This fall, the Historic Landmarks Board will plant a commemorative tree in the memory of James Casto, one of our board members. James was a great researcher of historical people and events. In his personal life he had a love for nature, so we felt planting a tree in James memory would be fitting.

Did you know that anyone can have a commemorative tree planted? Forest Grove has had a commemorative tree program for a few years, with the first trees planted down town by the Wells Fargo Bank building. Some people get plaques to go with the tree in honor of the person or organization, that the tree was planted for.

The city also has the Neighborwoods program. If you would like to have a tree to plant in your front parkway to replace a long gone tree or if you'd like to add a new tree to your neighborhood - this program is for you. If you live in one of the targeted areas you can sign up for a tree. This event happens only one day a year usually in the spring. Last year 30 trees were planted in one day. The program has been so successful that the organizers will be adding a day in the fall.

Forest Grove also has a register of trees of historical value. Next time you're out and about, check out the trees in Rogers Park, or take time to notice the large Sequoia on the NW corner of 1810 Pacific, can you see the Atlas Blue cedar tree on 1904 Elm St? Have you ever noticed the Landmark Sequoia at the Mt. Olive Lutheran Church at 2327 17th Ave.?

The trees of our town are awesome, take time to enjoy them. If you would like more information contact Tim O'Brian at 992-3226.

## *A Note from the Chair:*

by Cheryl Hunter

Welcome to our fall newsletter: the big news we have this quarter is the completion of the first half of our National Historic District Nomination. Evans-Hatch and Assoc. completed the survey document on August 15, and delivered it to James Reitz at the City Planning office. If you live within the boundaries of the district and you would like a little bit of history on your house feel free to give James a call. We also received confirmation that our application for the money to complete the District Nomination was also approved.

This month we welcome a new member to our board, please join us in saying hello to Mark Everett; see his personal history on the last page of this newsletter.

Also, this year we received a larger than expected grant from the Community Enhancement Grant funds. In case you don't know, these are Metro funds from which we receive our Local Historic Grant Money. In the last two years we received \$7,000 but this year we received \$12,000. So, if you've never applied for a grant and you have a project that involves restoring the exterior of your house or your house needs a bit of structural work - we can help. We supply grants for 50% of a project up to \$1,000 and homeowners who have never received a grant have priority. Call James Reitz for details and rules (992.3200 is the number of the planning office at the city).



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*Preserving Forest Grove is a quarterly newsletter published by the Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board to help fulfill its duty of public education regarding the preservation of cultural resources. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please call James Reitz at 992-3233.*

## **The Historic Landmark Board welcomes a new member . . .**

My name is Mark Everett and I am the newest appointee to the Historic Landmarks Board. I am beginning my four-year term this month. My family and I have been residents of Forest Grove for over 14 years. I work in education and spent 13 years as a high school teacher in the Forest Grove School District. During that time I also coached both boys and girls sports. I recently took a position as a high school administrator and now work across the river, in Milwaukie. Carrie, my wife, works locally as a dental hygienist for a dentist in Cornelius. Our two children attend schools in the Forest Grove District. We enjoy living here in Forest Grove and though we have traveled extensively overseas we always look forward to returning to our hometown.

As a new member of the board I will be learning all I can about the rich history of Forest Grove. I am also looking forward to the work of preserving historical landmarks. I know that currently there are efforts towards designation of a historical district within the city as well as grant opportunities for improvements to historical properties. I am excited about contributing my time and energy towards improving Forest Grove and welcome your comments and thoughts.

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